

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA-03) issued the following statement regarding the acquittal of George Zimmerman by a Florida jury for the murder of Trayvon Martin:

"A jury of Mr. Zimmerman's peers has spoken and we must accept the verdict. Nevertheless, I am encouraged that the U.S. Department of Justice has decided to take another look at this case to see if there is a federal prosecutable violation against Mr. Zimmerman. I expect that the Department will review possible violations of the Civil Rights Act and federal hate crimes law. I fully expect the Justice Department to diligently review all the evidence gathered in both the state trial and last year's federal investigation before deciding whether or not to bring any federal charges. The Martin family may also pursue civil remedies against Mr. Zimmerman for the tragic and senseless death of their son.

"Despite the outcome of the state criminal trial, we must ultimately focus our attention on how we can ensure that more young people do not fall victim to this sort of violence in the future. Congress must enact stronger gun safety measures, such as banning assault weapons, limiting magazine sizes, improving background checks, and ending straw purchases. Additionally, enacting evidenced-based youth violence prevention and intervention programs, such as the Youth PROMISE Act, will also save lives. While these actions may not have prevented this tragedy, advocating for an end to violence in our communities is the best way we can all honor the life and memory of Trayvon Martin."

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